

# no more illusions

## a journal of solidarity & defense

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### COMMUNITY PRESSURE AGAINST FAR RIGHT-WING ORGANIZING

*What follows is a letter that was delivered to the management of the restaurant Andiamos in Warren, Michigan where Steve Bannon, part-time white house staff, part-time white-nationalist, full-time anti-immigrant agitator, is scheduled to speak at a fundraiser event. It was written by an employee who works for a staffing company that Andiamos often contracts its for during events.*

**WARREN, MI**

**To whom it may concern,**

I'm a community member and organizer in Warren, and I have pressing concerns pertaining to an upcoming event with President Trump's former chief strategist, Steve Bannon. I am reaching out to you in hopes that you will halt the event at your establishment, Andiamos located in Warren, on November 8th, 2017. My primary concern is for the safety and security of the people within the community, particularly those that will show in opposition of an individual who is responsible for creating the political climate that is further tearing this country and its people apart.

As you know, fourteen mile road is one of Michigan's heavier used roads in the area. On any given day, the road is dense and the speed limit is nothing shy of dangerous. In terms of the sheer amount of people that will show in opposition of Bannon, this poses high possibilities of both conflicts and accidents.

Taking into consideration the fact that communities are going to show up no matter what, and those numbers may grow to a point where part of fourteen mile becomes occupied with several protesters. Local hate groups -- often armed -- will undoubtedly be present in support of Bannon, making the situation extremely unsafe. In the aftermath of Charlottesville, vehicular violence is a distinct possibility -- whether it is an act of aggression by a white supremacist or simply road rage. By hosting Bannon, you are hosting conflict, violence, and possibly lives lost.

Communities that are under attack by Bannon and what he represents will not back down from, nor stand for your company providing these individuals and local hate groups in Warren a platform. Steve Bannon, who promotes the vision of the alt right, has made it his mission to insidiously inject bigoted ultra-nationalist politics into the mainstream and normalize it.

Although he has been withdrawn from his position in office, the essence of his bigotry still remains strong within the White House. Steve Bannon's presence normalizes the language and actions of fascism, racism, sexism, and homophobia.

Since Trump's election, hate crimes has risen tremendously. The rhetoric spewed by our president is not only embarrassing at times, but also hazardous, as it feeds to a fire of discrimination and oppression of minorities in America.

Hate groups like the neo-nazis, KKK, and the alt right movement have somewhat become the norm, with their intentions and violent tactics encouraged by the highest office in the land. These hate groups lash out violently and attack vulnerable people and communities, and they align themselves with the ideals, strategies, and policies of our current presidential administration.

Bannon's presence in Macomb county will not only solidify organized hate groups in the Warren location,



come out in his support should not be welcomed in this community, and by hosting Bannon you would be complicit in any conflicts that may follow.

The people in this community and others are intent on standing their ground in defense of this city by protesting the event. They are willing to put themselves

***“To disregard this matter is to ignore the very important concerns of fascism and white supremacy rising in our everyday lives.”***

but it will also normalize hate crimes and devalue the very livelihood of those affected. I fear that the current local members of organized hate groups, representing fascism and white supremacy, will take this event as an opportunity to collaborate and exchange ideas; further increasing social and economic disparities in macomb county, along with hate crimes and racial tension in multiracial neighborhoods of Warren

I would ask of your establishment to withdraw its hospitality to Steve Bannon, as his presence is more problematic than it is beneficial to the community. People like Bannon and the hate groups who will

in harm's way to oppose the proliferation of fascism into our lives and culture.

To disregard this matter is to ignore the very important concerns of fascism and white supremacy rising in our everyday lives. We wish that you would not condone the words and acts of fascists by giving them a platform and an opportunity to spread hate into our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

*Community of Warren*

**A protest is being organized outside Andiamos on Wednesday, November 8 at 5:00pm**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Holiday Cards For Prisoners Party**

December 4th, 6–9pm in Ypsilanti

Come make holiday cards for prisoners! Sponsored by Black and Pink (blackandpink.org). There will be some cards to color in and some to write a nice note on. Don't worry if you don't know what to say, we can help you! [facebook.com/events/430111664053683](https://facebook.com/events/430111664053683)

**From Antifascist Street Fighting to Anti-Racist Action (ARA) History Lesson**

December 7th, 6:30–8:30pm

Ann Arbor District Library

[facebook.com/events/141222709839836/](https://facebook.com/events/141222709839836/)

**Solidarity & Defense Winter Conference**

In late January, join the statewide Solidarity & Defense network for a weekend of workshops, panel discussions, and social events in order to help strengthen the anti-fascist and anti-racist movement. The conference will take place in Lansing. For more info, see [solidarityndefense.net](https://solidarityndefense.net)

**Richard Spencer at MSU**

White nationalist Richard Spencer is trying to speak at Michigan State University, probably in late November or early December. He is currently in the process of suing the University in federal court in order force them into allowing him to speak. Groups from around the Midwest are prepared to bring the fight to Spencer wherever he goes, and updates on the resistance to his proposed East Lansing visit will be posted on the Solidarity & Defense facebook page.

# FUCK THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, HERE’S THE REAL RESISTANCE:

## QUEER RESISTANCE AGAINST STATE VIOLENCE

On the night of September 16th, Scout Schultz, a 21 year old queer activist and anti-fascist, was murdered by police on Georgia Tech campus. Scout led the university’s Pride Alliance. The police claimed Scout was wielding a knife, but really they were just holding a multipurpose tool. In their honor, hundreds gathered for a vigil at Georgia Tech before marching to the police headquarters on campus. There, clashes between attendees and campus police broke out. In the midst of these clashes, a police SUV was torched, multiple police officers were injured, and three arrests were made.

## FIGHTING CLIMATE CHAOS, COLONIALISM WITH MUTUAL AID IN PUERTO RICO

In the weeks after Hurricane Maria, people living in Puerto Rico and supporters that traveled there have been working together to attempt to find ways to survive without the help of their own or foreign governments. They are battling not only the immediate concerns of water and electricity but also the conditions of U.S.-imposed domination that have been ongoing for decades including failing infrastructure, crippling taxes, inflated prices, soaring debt, accompanying austerity, environmental injustice and racism. Activists with Mutual Aid Disaster Relief have distributed more than 120,000 pounds of food, water, water purification tablets, batteries, and other much needed supplies to the people in the heretofore “inaccessible” mountain terrain.

Mutual Aid Disaster Relief has also faced state repression. In the early hours before dawn of October 16th, 2017. Citing absurd and patently false contentions such as “kidnapping” “bombs” and “guns” and after aggressively questioning relief workers about their political affiliations, activists were forced out of the hub at gunpoint and the threat of arrest. In their own words: “Despite the efforts of the state to intimidate us into paralysis and passivity, and running on no sleep, we decided the best way to cope and to fight back against the repression was to be back in the streets, contributing to people’s survival and self-determination by continuing to acquire needed resources and hand them over to the people.”

## ST. LOUIS VERSUS THE POLICE

In what has quickly become the next wave of rustbelt anti-police resistance, fed-up residents of St. Louis have taken to the streets night after motherfuckin night. Beginning on September 15th, after a judge found ex-police officer Jason Stockley not guilty of first-degree murder, the city erupted in a series of protests against police violence. Stockley was responsible for the murder of an African-American Anthony Lamar Smith in 2011, which took place after a car chase. A video of Stockley recorded inside his police car showed him yelling, “We’re killing this motherfucker. Don’t you know it.” People were not having it. The night verdict was released crowds clashed with the police in the street and through red paint on the mayor’s mansion. The protests occurred nightly for a month and proved that three years after the Ferguson rebellion the midwest will not be placated: so long as killer cops get away with murder we will fight back.

## HAITI RISES UP AGAINST AUSTERITY

Since September, protests have continued in Haiti which is still recovering from the devastating 2010 earthquake that has left many living in tents without proper sanitation, leading to to a cholera outbreak, as well as the more recent effects of hurricanes Matthew and Irma, widespread corruption, and some of the most crippling poverty in the entire region. Starting in September, The Coalition of Democratic Organization announced protests against the 2017-2018 budget, dubbed the “Budget of Death,” that includes tax increases aimed at the poor along with the decreasing of aid. The head of the coalition is quoted as saying “This criminal budget means to impoverish the people and spare the middle class,” and the rebellion is more and more taking on a revolutionary character. As Tele-Sur recently reported: Police forces have been clashing with around a thousand protesters in Haiti – they are demanding the government resigns and revokes the bill approving next year’s budget. Demonstrators tried to march from an upper-class district of the capital Port-au-Prince on Tuesday towards the city center in Petionville, but officers stopped them halfway with tear gas and water cannon.

Some of the above content from [itsgoingdown.org](http://itsgoingdown.org)



# BUILDING COMMUNITY SELF-DEFENSE ACROSS THE MITTEN

## COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY BBQ COOKOUT IN LANSING

Lansing Solidarity & Defense hosted a cookout in Hunter park on August 30th. We provided free food to over 75 people and had frank and interesting discussions about white supremacy, the police, and community-led solutions to our collective problems. A bunch of us got to meet neighbors and share our political dreams and visions together. Following the BBQ different working groups were created to work on projects locally including a team to wheatpaste anti-racist flyers around our neighborhoods and another team to support a local man whose slumlord was not dealing with a mold problem. Additionally, the food everyone helped to provide was delicious!

## PANEL DISCUSSION IN DETROIT

On October 23rd people from a variety of different movements around Detroit came together to share their experiences defending their communities against state violence and street fascism. Activists from Respuesta Rapida/ Rapid Response Detroit, Detroit Eviction Defense, and other Anti-fascist/Anti-racist organizations all spoke and strategized together.

## AGAINST STATE REPRESSION IN YPSI

On October 25th there was a political fundraiser and benefit show for the J20 defendants. The discussion was about escalating state repression in the age of Trump. They also helped raise legal funds for local friends and J20 defendants. Nearly 200 people (including 8 from Michigan and 4 from Ypsilanti) are facing 75 years in prison for protesting Trump on inauguration day. **Speakers included:**  
+ Cindy Milstein, author and organizer, editor of Taking Sides: Revolutionary Solidarity and the Poverty of Liberalism  
+ Maximillian Alvarez, columnist for The Baffler  
+ One of the J20 defendants  
The event was hosted by the Ypsilanti branch of the Industrial Workers of the World, with the support of Huron Valley Solidarity & Defense, Southeast Michigan Redneck Revolt, the UM chapter of the Campus Antifascist Network, and the local chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, and more.

# ANTIFA: THE ANTI-FASCIST HANDBOOK

By: AK from Huron Valley Solidarity & Defense

For the full text of the book review, visit [solidarityndefense.net](http://solidarityndefense.net)

Marching in the streets of DC on J20. Launching an attack on police barricades before Milo Yiannopoulos’ speech at Berkeley. Standing between peaceful protesters and white supremacists in Charlottesville. In 2017, the United States has seen a surge in public anti-fascist demonstrations and actions. Subsequently, without a shred of historical context or knowledge, pundits of the mainstream media have concluded that antifascist violence against private property makes Antifa “a greater threat to free speech than fascism itself” (143). But what is Antifa, and where did it come from? Mark Bray’s central argument in *Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook* is that modern leftists and anti-fascists must look to history to inform their strategies for this present-day conflict. An historian who holds a lectureship at Dartmouth College, Bray draws mainly from personal interviews with over 60 European and North American antifascists, placing them in context with wider historical literature on the radical left in the US and Europe and admittedly scarce literature on Antifa itself.

The first two chapters of *Antifa* trace the historical roots of anti-fascist movements, first in pre-war Europe and then from 1945-2003, when Bray identifies a significant shift from “traditional” anti-fascist action to a modern war against what he calls “pinstripe Nazis” in chapter three. The second half of the book provides an overview of the lessons learned by antifascists and directly addresses common critiques of Antifa and radical left organizing in general.

Bray traces the development of the movement beginning with the first post-war anti-fascist organization was the 43 Group, composed mainly of Jewish, British Veterans of the Second World War through the 20th century to the contemporary fight against “Pinstripe Nazis”, or fascists who hide their beliefs well enough to be accepted as relatively mainstream politicians. Beginning in chapter four, Bray outlines historical lessons for modern anti-fascists. First, he points out that fascism has always gained power legally, not through force. This is why anti-

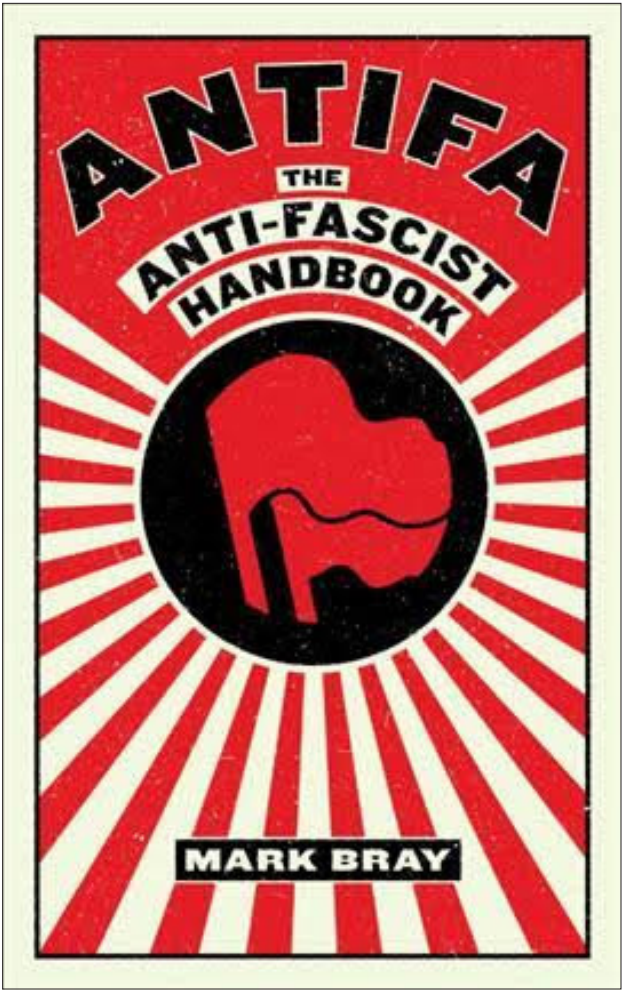
fascist organizers may rightly see the liberal method for opposing fascism as insufficient. This method essentially relies on the idea that eventually fascists will lose in a reasoned debate, as if life were analogous to a debate hall.

Another significant historical lesson is that in the past, fascism was not recognized as the threat that it was until too late. Instead it was often seen as an offshoot of revolutionary politics that need not be taken seriously. However, fascism is something different. It “created a vehicle for the imperialism and genocide that Europe had exported around the world to bring its wars of extermination home.” Other educational lessons included the reminder that fascism and far-right politics have always stolen from and corrupted the ideology and culture of the Left, and, perhaps most importantly and simply: It doesn’t take that many fascists to make fascism.

Bray does an excellent job breaking down the questions of whether anti-fascists oppose “free speech” and whether such a position creates a slippery slope. The question of free speech is not often one with which anti-fascists engage, because classically liberal terms of political debate are typically limited to legalistic, rights-based discourse. This understanding of “rights” is not a position that is not shared by many leftist revolutionaries.

For those Antifa groups who do engage in the debate, however, their explanations vary. Some make the point that the right to free speech protects speakers from the government, not from criticism from the public. Others point out that they are targeting fascist organizing, not fascist speech. Still others acknowledge that they are preventing the speech of fascists, and this strategy of “no platform” stems from the consensus that fascist views and beliefs have no place in their communities.

This accessible, easy-to-consume text will appeal to a range of readers, from the newly radicalized to lifelong leftists. Near the end of his book, Bray states that “the shape of resistance must always be calibrated against that which is being resisted. It is incumbent upon anti-fascists to continually reevaluate their theoretical,



strategic, and tactical arsenals based on shifts in the ideology and praxis of their far-right adversaries” (134). To this point, let us not find ourselves too lost in history, but instead take care to understand our enemies as they appear today. Let us envision strategies that may not just meet our enemy where they are, but that are flexible enough to anticipate and proactively shut down their next move.

**Join our Radical Reading Group!**

Past texts include *Antifa: The Antifascist Handbook*, *Revolution in Rojava*, and *Seeing Like A State*. Email [miradicalreadinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:miradicalreadinggroup@gmail.com) to hear about the next meeting.





# HOUSTON HOLDS IT DOWN: COMMUNITY SELF-DEFENSE IN THE FACE OF A NAZI ATTACK

By: 2017 Houston Anarchist Bookfair Organizers / Edited for length by D from Lansing Solidarity & Defense  
For the full text: [itsgoingdown.org/htown-holds-security-defense-movement/](https://itsgoingdown.org/htown-holds-security-defense-movement/)

In Spain in the 1930s, during the revolution against General Franco’s fascist takeover, a propaganda poster read: “Los libros anarquistas son armas contra el fascismo,” or “Anarchist books are weapons against fascism.” This slogan was proven true again on Sunday, August 24th when around two dozen fascists tried (unsuccessfully) to shut down the 2017 Houston Anarchist Bookfair.

The bookfair was the result of six months of planning and organizing. Despite speculation and rumors after Hurricane Harvey that the event would be canceled, the event actually gained some momentum as people were energized by grassroots and autonomous relief efforts. A lot of eyes were on Houston, and a lot of talk was focused on the failures of capitalism and the State and the benefits of revolutionary solidarity, mutual aid, and cooperative, horizontal organizing.

The bookfair drew an incredibly diverse and inter-generational crowd of around 300 people throughout the day, and collectives from across Texas, the South, and other parts of Turtle Island filled the tables in the main hall. Unfortunately, most of the attention and discussion since the bookfair ended has focused exclusively on the 10-15 minute period during which about two dozen white supremacists and fascists attempted to disrupt the event. They rolled up in a crew of about two dozen, most in matching white polo shirts and masks over their faces, with a banner stating “For Race and Nation” and “Blood and Soil.” They rushed the doors and attempted to force their way into the bookfair while carrying at least three smoke bombs. Many of the fascists were wearing “tactical” gloves with hardened plastic knuckles, often preferred for punching people while minimizing risk of injury to the puncher’s hands. Others carried sticks.

Our security team saw them approaching and quickly helped bookfair attendees inside and secured the doors so the fascists could not enter. They shook and kicked the doors to try to get in. They then retreated down the stairs to get their livestreaming footage and social media photos while chanting fascist slogans. They also went around at least part of the building and tried to enter side doors, but we had of course already secured these. Unable to enter the building to attack the people inside and fill the building with smoke, they staged a brief photo op outside, chanting “blood and soil” and “anti-white.” After about 10 minutes on site, the fascists left the area and did not visibly return. Within 20 minutes of the initial arrival of the fascists, all the workshops had resumed. The bookfair continued uninterrupted and on schedule the rest of the day (yes, actually on schedule!).

If one were to put stock in social media buzz, lots of people believe that we should have marched outside for a street fight or just shot all the fascists from the front steps. Maybe that would feel good or score some points for our team in the simplistic world where antifascism is little more than punching Nazis, but it also would have increased the likelihood of significant and adverse police involvement as well as the likelihood that the event would get shut down by the owners of the space. Continuing the bookfair was important to building a stronger, deeper, and better networked radical, antifascist movement. Purely reactive approaches to antifascism, where we escalate every provocation and always engage the fascists on their terms, is macho, nonstrategic, and counterproductive. That vision of a “victory” is five Nazis in the hospital, 10 antifascists in jail, and a significant event for recruiting, networking, and building our movements being canceled almost as soon as it gets underway.

Militant resistance has been the only thing holding back fascist power grabs. They wanted to shut us down, and they wanted to make us afraid. They didn’t even make us run off schedule. They didn’t hurt or isolate any of us. We did what we came to do—create a space for Houstonians, Texans, and southerners to learn together, and dream of lives free of hierarchy, white supremacy, prisons, patriarchy, ableism, and capitalism, lives built on strong, caring communities of mutual aid and solidarity. We want to work with our neighbors to create plans to protect our homes and families from the fascist threat. We want to take the south away from the fascists so resolutely that the ghost of the KKK is exorcised from our home. We remember what it felt like when the Nazis and the KKK had unlimited political power. We won’t go back. We are stronger than them, there are more of us, and we will fight to keep them from seizing power to commit genocide again. We won’t go back. Let’s keep building together in this time of incredible upheaval.



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with questions, concerns, or to submit your own article!